09/870,292   MS158318.01/MSFTP241US

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A system that facilitates generating <u>one or more</u> lists, the system comprising:

     a user data store that stores user items;

     an identifying system that associates descriptive metadata with user items; and

     a list generation system ~~adapted~~ to receive at least one seed item <u>generated from</u> <u>descriptive metadata associated with a selected user item,</u> the list generation system analyzing ~~descriptive metadata associated with~~ the at least one seed item ~~and the user items, and matching~~ ~~the at least one seed item to a subset of the user items~~ <u>at least in part by comparing the at least</u> <u>one seed item to one or more candidate items generated from the descriptive metadata associated</u> <u>with the user items to determine a degree of similarity between the at least one seed item and the</u> <u>one or more candidate items, wherein the analysis is facilitated by a similarity subsystem</u> <u>designed at least in part by a machine learning technique that learns from descriptive metadata</u> <u>associated with a training set of items,</u> the list generation system outputting [[a]]<u>one or more lists</u> corresponding to ~~the~~ <u>a</u> subset of user items <u>that are similar to the selected user item.</u>

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1 where the user data store resides on a client computing system.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 2 where the list generation system resides on the client computing system.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 1 where the one or more list items are songs.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4 where the songs are identifiable by at least one of an artist name, an album name and a track name.

6.   (Original) The system of claim 5 where the descriptive metadata comprises information concerning at least one of a genre, a subgenre, a style, a mood, a vocal coding, a rhythm type and a rhythm description.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 6 where the list corresponding to the subset of user items is a song playlist.

8.   (Original) The system of claim 1 where the list items comprise at least one of movies, documents, books, music videos and sound recordings.

9.   (Withdrawn) A system that facilitates generating lists, the system comprising:
        a media library data store that stores client items;
        a reference metadata database that stores descriptive metadata associated with client
items;
        an identifying system operable to associate descriptive metadata with client items; and
        a list generation system operably connected to the media library data store and the client item descriptive metadata data store, the list generation system comprising:
                a seed item input subsystem adapted to receive at least one seed item;
                a similarity subsystem operable to produce a similarity value that characterizes the degree to which a candidate client item and the seed item are similar; and
                a list generating subsystem operably connected to the similarity subsystem, the list generating subsystem producing a list based, at least in part, on the degree to which candidate client items are related to the at least one seed item.

10.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 where an item is identifiable by one or more item identifying fields.

11.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 where the at least one seed item is identifiable by one or more item identifying fields.

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12.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 where the media library data store, reference metadata database and the list generation system reside on a client computer system.

13.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9, where the reference metadata database and the item identifying system reside on a server computer and the list generating system resides on a client computer.

14.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 where the media library data store, the list generation system reside and the reference metadata database reside on a server computer.

15.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 9 where the similarity subsystem accepts as inputs a feature vector associated with a candidate user item and a feature vector associated with the seed item and produces a difference vector, where the difference vector can be input to a similarity value generator, the similarity value generator producing the similarity value.

16.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15 where the similarity value generator accesses one or more similarity value data structures whose values were generated by machine learning techniques to convert the difference vector to the similarity value.

17.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16 where the list items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.

18.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17 where the item identifying fields comprise at least one of an artist field, a collection field and a title field.

19.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 18 where list items are songs and the list item descriptive metadata comprises information concerning at least one of a genre, a subgenre, a style, a mood, a vocal coding, a rhythm type and a rhythm description.

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20.   (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 where a feature vector comprises one or more fields associated with at least one of a genre attribute, a subgenre attribute, a style attribute, a mood attribute, a vocal coding attribute, a rhythm type attribute and a rhythm description attribute.

21.   (Withdrawn) A computer readable medium containing computer executable components for a system that facilitates generating lists, the components comprising:

    a seed item input component adapted to receive at least one seed item;

    an identifying component adapted to associate descriptive metadata with user items stored in a media library;

    a similarity component that produces a similarity value that characterizes the degree to which a candidate user item and the at least one seed item are similar; and

    a list generating component that produces a list based, at least in part, on the degree to which candidate client items are related to the at least one seed item.

22.   (Withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 21, where the client items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.

23.   (Withdrawn) A method for generating a list, the method comprising:

    associating descriptive metadata with one or more candidate user items;

    producing similarity data that characterizes the similarity between a candidate user item and at least one seed item; and

    producing a list of one or more user items related to the at least one seed item.

24.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 where associating descriptive metadata comprises:

    performing inexact matching between identifying metadata associated with a user item to be added to the media library and identifying metadata associated with items in a reference metadata database.

25.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24 where producing similarity data that characterizes the similarity between a candidate user item and the seed item comprises:

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comparing descriptive metadata associated with the seed item to descriptive metadata associated with a candidate user item.

26.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 where comparing descriptive metadata associated with the at least one seed item to descriptive metadata associated with a candidate user item comprises:

comparing at least one feature vector associated with the at least one seed item to a feature vector associated with the candidate user item;

producing a difference vector related to the at least one feature vector associated with the at least one seed item and the feature vector associated with a candidate user item; and

producing the similarity data by employing the difference vector to retrieve a similarity value stored in a data store, where the data store was created by a machine learning technique.

27.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 where the user items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.

28.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26 where the user item is a song, the user is identified by item identifying data, the item identifying data comprising at least one of a song artist, a song album and a song track.

29.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 28 where a feature vector comprises fields associated with at least one of a genre feature, a subgenre feature, a style feature, a mood feature, a vocal coding feature, a rhythm type feature and a rhythm description feature.

30.   (Withdrawn) A computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for performing a method for generating a list, the method comprising:

producing as-added descriptive metadata associated with an item to be added to a user media library;

producing similarity data that characterizes the similarity between a candidate user item and at least one seed item; and

producing a list of one or more user items related to the at least one seed item.

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31.   (Withdrawn) The computer readable medium of claim 30, where the user items are at least one of songs, music videos, movies, documents, books, and images.

32.   (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the identifying system associates descriptive metadata with user items by performing inexact matching between identifying metadata associated with a user item to be added to a media library and identifying metadata associated with items in a reference metadata database.

33.   (New) A method for generating one or more lists, the method comprising:
         providing a plurality of metadata attributes relating to the content of a media object;
         generating a seed feature vector from the plurality of metadata attributes;
         providing at least one candidate feature vector, the at least one candidate feature vector generated from metadata relating to the content of a candidate object;
         comparing the seed feature vector to the at least one candidate feature vector according to a similarity function, wherein the similarity function is determined at least in part by a machine learning algorithm employing metadata attributes of a test set of media objects and wherein the similarity function returns an output indicative of the degree of similarity between the seed feature vector and the at least one candidate feature vector; and
         generating a list of candidate items based on the output of the similarity function.

34.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein comparing the seed feature vector to the candidate feature vector comprises producing a difference vector.

35.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the seed feature vector has at least 7 subjective metadata attributes.

36.   (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the at least 7 subjective metadata attributes comprise a genre attribute, a subgenre attribute, a style attribute, a mood attribute, a vocal coding attribute, a rhythm type attribute and a rhythm description attribute

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37.   (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the machine learning algorithm utilizes a sparse quadratic program.

38.   (New) Computer-executable instructions for implementing the method of claim 33 stored on computer-readable media.

39.   (New) A data signal transporting computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 33.

40.   (New) A system for generating one or more lists, the system comprising:

means for learning, the means for learning employing descriptive metadata from a training set of media objects to learn;

means for generating a fingerprint of a media object from a plurality of descriptive metadata attributes, at least one of the plurality of descriptive metadata attributes being a subjective attribute;

means for comparing the fingerprint to a reference fingerprint to produce an output indicative of the similarity between the fingerprints;

means for translating the output into a similarity value, wherein the means for translating is generated at least in part by the means for learning; and

means for generating a list of similar media objects based on the similarity value.

41.   (New) The system of claim 40, wherein the list of candidate items is presented to a user and generated on the user's computer.

42.   (New) Computer-executable instructions for implementing the system of claim 40 stored on computer-readable media.

43.   (New) A data signal transporting computer-executable instructions for implementing the system of claim 40.

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